Response to Applicant - Partial Access Granted
Form 4B

Sec 30. (1)

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: BTCRD/26/2015]

On April 02, 2015, the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

"I am requesting a copy of all briefing notes, information notes, fact sheets, etc on the EDGE program for the last 3 years."

Clarification of time period: 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15; and,
Clarification of versions: final/signed unless no final version available, then last draft.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted in part. Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with Sections: 18.(1)(a)(ix), 18.(2)(a); 27.(2); 27.(1)(c)(i); 27.(1)(b); 20.(1)(a); 30.(4)(f); and, 21.(b) as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act), (see attached for noted sections).

In accordance with your request a copy of the appropriate records has been enclosed.

Section 43 of the Act provides that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this partial refusal of access or you may appeal the refusal to the Supreme Court Trial Division. A request to the Information and Privacy Commissioner shall be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

Records that are refused on the basis of section 18(2)(a) (official cabinet record), you must appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 30 days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 60. You may also contact the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner who may decide to initiate an appeal pursuant to subsection 60(1.1).
The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

In the event that you choose to appeal to the Trial Division, you must do so within 30 days of the date of this letter. Section 60 of the Act sets out the process to be followed when filing such an appeal.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please contact Jonathan Hammond, ATIPP Coordinator, by telephone at 709-729-6811 or by e-mail at JonathanHammond@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alastair O'Rielly
Deputy Minister

Enclosure(s)
Policy advice or recommendations

20. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

(a) advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

(b) the contents of a formal research report or audit report that in the opinion of the head of the public body is incomplete unless no progress has been made on it for more than 3 years;

(c) consultations or deliberations involving officers or employees of a public body, a minister or the staff of a minister; or

(d) draft legislation or regulations.

(2) The head of a public body shall not refuse to disclose under subsection (1)

(a) factual material;

(b) a public opinion poll;

(c) a statistical survey;

(d) an appraisal;

(e) an environmental impact statement or similar information;

(f) a final report or final audit on the performance or efficiency of a public body or on any of its programs or policies;

(g) a consumer test report or a report of a test carried out on a product to test equipment of the public body;

(h) a feasibility or technical study, including a cost estimate, relating to a policy or project of the public body;

(i) a report on the results of field research undertaken before a policy proposal is formulated;

(j) a report of an external task force, committee, council or similar body that has been established to consider a matter and make a report or recommendations to a public body;

(k) a plan or proposal to establish a new program or to change a program, if the plan or proposal has been approved or rejected by the head of the public body;

(l) information that the head of the public body has cited publicly as the basis for making a decision or formulating a policy; or

(m) a decision, including reasons, that is made in the exercise of a discretionary power or an adjudicative function and that affects the rights of the applicant.

(3) Subsection (1) does not apply to information in a record that has been in existence for 15 years or more.
Cabinet confidences

18. (1) In this section

(a) "cabinet record" means

(i) advice, recommendations or policy considerations submitted or prepared for submission to the Cabinet,

(ii) draft legislation or regulations submitted or prepared for submission to the Cabinet,

(iii) a memorandum, the purpose of which is to present proposals or recommendations to the Cabinet,

(iv) a discussion paper, policy analysis, proposal, advice or briefing material, including all factual and background material prepared for the Cabinet,

(v) an agenda, minute or other record of Cabinet recording deliberations or decisions of the Cabinet,

(vi) a record used for or which reflects communications or discussions among ministers on matters relating to the making of government decisions or the formulation of government policy,

(vii) a record created for or by a minister for the purpose of briefing that minister on a matter for the Cabinet,

(viii) a record created during the process of developing or preparing a submission for the Cabinet, or

(ix) that portion of a record which contains information about the contents of a record within a class of information referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (viii);

(b) "discontinued cabinet record" means a cabinet record referred to in paragraph (a) the original intent of which was to inform the Cabinet process, but which is neither a supporting Cabinet record nor an official Cabinet record;

(c) "official cabinet record" means a cabinet record referred to in paragraph (a) which has been prepared for and considered in a meeting of the Cabinet; and

(d) "supporting cabinet record" means a Cabinet record referred to in paragraph (a) which informs the Cabinet process, but which is not an official cabinet record.

(2) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant a Cabinet record, including

(a) an official Cabinet record;

(b) a discontinued Cabinet record; and

(c) a supporting Cabinet record.

(3) The commissioner may review the refusal of a Cabinet record by the head of a public body under subsection (2) except where the decision relates to a Cabinet record which has been certified as an official Cabinet record by the Clerk of the Executive Council or his or her delegate.

(4) Where a question arises as to whether a Cabinet record is an official Cabinet record, the certificate of the Clerk of Executive Council or his or her delegate stating that the record is an official Cabinet record is conclusive of the question.

(5) The delegate of the Clerk of the Executive Council referred to in subsections (3) and (4) shall be limited to the Deputy Clerk of the Executive Council and the Secretary of the Treasury Board.
(6) An applicant may appeal a decision of the head of a public body respecting Cabinet records referred to subsection (2), except an official Cabinet record, to the commissioner or the Trial Division under section 43.

(7) An applicant may appeal a decision of the head of a public body respecting a Cabinet record which is an official Cabinet record directly to the Trial Division.

(8) This section does not apply to

(a) information in a record that has been in existence for 20 years or more; or

(b) information in a record of a decision made by the Cabinet on an appeal under an Act.

2012 c25 s6

Legal advice

21. The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information

(a) that is subject to solicitor and client privilege; or

(b) that would disclose legal opinions provided to a public body by a law officer of the Crown.

2002 cA-1.1 s21

Disclosure harmful to personal privacy

30. (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

(2) A disclosure of personal information is not an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy where

(a) the applicant is the individual to whom the information relates;

(b) the third party to whom the information relates has, in writing, consented to or requested the disclosure;

(c) there are compelling circumstances affecting a person’s health or safety and notice of disclosure is mailed to the last known address of the third party to whom the information relates;

(d) an Act or regulation of the province or of Canada authorizes the disclosure;

(e) the disclosure is for a research or statistical purpose and is in accordance with section 41;

(f) the information is about a third party's position, functions or salary range as an officer, employee or member of a public body or as a member of a minister's staff;

(g) the disclosure reveals financial and other details of a contract to supply goods or services to a public body;

(h) the disclosure reveals the opinions or views of a third party given in the course of performing services for a public body, except where they are given in respect of another individual;

(i) public access to the information is provided under the Financial Administration Act;

(j) the information is about expenses incurred by a third party while travelling at the expense of a public body;
(k) the disclosure reveals details of a licence, permit or a similar discretionary benefit granted to a third party by a public body, not including personal information supplied in support of the application for the benefit;

(l) the disclosure reveals details of a discretionary benefit of a financial nature granted to a third party by a public body, not including

(i) personal information that is supplied in support of the application for the benefit, or

(ii) personal information that relates to eligibility for income and employment support under the Income and Employment Support Act or to the determination of income or employment support levels;

(m) the personal information is about an individual who has been dead for 20 years or more; or

(n) the disclosure is not contrary to the public interest as described in subsection (3) and reveals only the following personal information about a third party:

(i) attendance at or participation in a public event or activity related to a public body, including a graduation ceremony, sporting event, cultural program or club, or field trip, or

(ii) receipt of an honour or award granted by or through a public body.

(3) The disclosure of personal information under paragraph (2)(n) is an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy where the third party whom the information is about has requested that the information not be disclosed.

(4) A disclosure of personal information is presumed to be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy where

(a) the personal information relates to a medical, psychiatric or psychological history, diagnosis, condition, treatment or evaluation;

(b) the personal information is an identifiable part of a law enforcement record, except to the extent that the disclosure is necessary to dispose of the law enforcement matter or to continue an investigation;

(c) the personal information relates to employment or educational history;

(d) the personal information was collected on a tax return or gathered for the purpose of collecting a tax;

(e) the personal information consists of an individual's bank account information or credit card information;

(f) the personal information consists of personal recommendations or evaluations, character references or personnel evaluations;

(g) the personal information consists of the third party's name where

(i) it appears with other personal information about the third party, or

(ii) the disclosure of the name itself would reveal personal information about the third party; or

(h) the personal information indicates the third party's racial or ethnic origin or religious or political beliefs or associations.

(5) In determining under subsections (1) and (4) whether a disclosure of personal information constitutes an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy, the head of a public body shall consider all the relevant circumstances, including whether

(a) the disclosure is desirable for the purpose of subjecting the activities of the province or a public body to public scrutiny;

(b) the disclosure is likely to promote public health and safety or the protection of the environment;
(c) the personal information is relevant to a fair determination of the applicant's rights;

(d) the disclosure will assist in researching or validating the claims, disputes or grievances of aboriginal people;

(e) the third party will be exposed unfairly to financial or other harm;

(f) the personal information has been supplied in confidence;

(g) the personal information is likely to be inaccurate or unreliable;

(h) the disclosure may unfairly damage the reputation of a person referred to in the record requested by the applicant; and

(i) the personal information was originally provided to the applicant.

2012 c25 s15
2012 c25 s12

Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party

27. (1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

(a) trade secrets of a third party;

(b) commercial, financial, labour relations, scientific or technical information of a third party, that is supplied, implicitly or explicitly, in confidence and is treated consistently as confidential information by the third party; or

(c) commercial, financial, labour relations, scientific or technical information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to

(i) harm the competitive position of a third party or interfere with the negotiating position of the third party,

(ii) result in similar information no longer being supplied to the public body when it is in the public interest that similar information continue to be supplied,

(iii) result in significant financial loss or gain to any person or organization, or

(iv) reveal information supplied to, or the report of, an arbitrator, mediator, labour relations officer or other person or body appointed to resolve or inquire into a labour relations dispute.

(2) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information that was obtained on a tax return, gathered for the purpose of determining tax liability or collecting a tax, or royalty information submitted on royalty returns, except where that information is non-identifying aggregate royalty information.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply where

(a) the third party consents to the disclosure; or

(b) the information is in a record that is in the custody or control of the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador or the archives of a public body and that has been in existence for 50 years or more.
Decision Note
Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development

Title: Board Appointments - Business Investment Corporation (BIC) and Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises (EDGE) Boards.

Decision Required: Which private sector and public sector recommendations should be put forward for Lieutenant Governor in Council approval for appointment/re-appointment to BIC and EDGE Boards.

Background:

- The BIC is the successor entity to Enterprise Newfoundland and Labrador Corporation ("ENL"), the Fisheries Loan Board and the Farm Development Loan Board. It is responsible for the "arm's length" administration of the Department's business investment portfolio, approval of loans and investments, including all activities under the Business Investment Program and the Fisheries Loan Guarantee Program ("FLGP").

- The BIC is governed by the Business Investment Corporation Act ("BIC Act") which outlines the authority and powers of the BIC and its Board of Directors. Pursuant to the BIC Act, Cabinet shall appoint a board of directors consisting of between five and nine members and may appoint one of the directors to be chairperson and one to be vice-chairperson. The BIC Act is silent on the term of appointment for Board members, but past practice has been for three years.

- The EDGE Program is an incentive program designed to encourage significant new business investment to help diversify the economy and stimulate private sector job creation.

- The EDGE Program is governed by the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises Act ("EDGE Act"). Pursuant to the EDGE Act, an EDGE Board comprised of private and public sector members appointed by Cabinet evaluates applications submitted under the EDGE Program and makes recommendations on these applications to Cabinet through the Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. The EDGE Act is silent on the appointment of a Chair or Vice-Chair. The EDGE Act is also silent on the size of the Board and the term of appointment of Board members.

- Pursuant to Sections 7(1) and 7(3) of the Business Investment Corporation Act and Section 6(1) of the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises Act, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council appoints/ reappoints private and public sector representatives to the Board of Directors of the Business Investment Corporation and to the EDGE Board, for a period of three years, with effect from the date of appointment.

- While legislation requires two separate boards, Government appointed the same individuals to both the Board of Directors of the BIC and of EDGE Boards.
- All Board members terms have now expired. The term of chairperson expired in February 2013 (OC 2010-209) for BIC and OC 2010-210 for EDGE, while all remaining terms expired in June 2014 for both BIC (OC 2011-170) and EDGE (OC 2011-169).

- All Members of the House of Assembly were canvassed for nominations for Board membership. There was a lower than anticipated response with only two nominees received from the process. A third possible nominee has been identified through Executive efforts, which are still ongoing.

- This issue needs to be resolved expeditiously given the nature of responsibility of each Board in relation to the Department’s mandate for business and economic development.

**Current Status:**

- The current Board membership, all having expired terms, consists of 4 private industry members and 2 government representatives.

- On July 7th, 2014, the DM, ADM, Business and Regional Development, and Director (A), Business Analysis met to discuss next steps. A list of potential candidates (Appendix A) was developed for further consideration.
• Discussion also occurred around reappointing the current BIC/EDGE Chair, potentially as Vice-Chair, to provide continuity in private sector representation for the newly appointed Boards.

**Action Proposed:**
- With input from Justice, advise current Board members of the expiration of their term on BIC/EDGE Board, noting that an extension of term will apply until new Boards are appointed.
- Review and finalize a list of potential nominees.
- Seek concurrence from these nominees of interest in appointment to BIC/EDGE board.
- Appoint the ADM, Business and Regional Development as an additional Board member. (This would help to alleviate delays caused by lack of a quorum for time sensitive decision making.)
- Prepare a Cabinet Paper to appoint (re-appoint) BIC/EDGE board members, including the additional Government representative.
- Stagger the appointment timelines so that all appointments are not expiring at the same time.

Prepared by: Liane Price, Director (A), Business Analysis
Reviewed/Approved by: Rita Malone, ADM
July 8th, 2014
Appendix A
List of Potential Nominees to BIC/EDGE Boards.

1. Bill Wells – Chair

2. Fred Drover – Vice Chair
   
   Mr. Drover is the current chair of both BIC and EDGE Board. He has served two terms on both Boards.

3. Roy Percy

4. Dennis Waterman

5. Peggy Bartlett

The other BIC board members would be Government representatives consisting of the positions of DM IBRD, DM Finance, and ADM, Business and Regional Development.
Briefing Note
Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development

Title: EDGE & Contact Centre Budget Estimates for the Next Five Years

Issue: Budget deficit for EDGE rebate and contact centres for the next five year budget cycle.

Background:

EDGE

- The EDGE Program, which was established in 1995, is an incentive program designed as an economic development and marketing tool to encourage new business investment in the Province to help diversify the economy and stimulate private sector job creation. The EDGE Program is governed by the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises (EDGE) Act (the EDGE Act).

- To be considered for EDGE status, a company must demonstrate that its new or expanding business activity: (i) has the potential for new capital investment of at least $300,000 or incremental sales of at least $500,000; (ii) has the potential to create and to maintain at least ten new permanent jobs in the Province; (iii) would not take place in the Province in the absence of the EDGE incentives, in preference to another location or at the time when it is proposed to do so; (iv) has a substantial net economic benefit to the Province; and, (v) if provided EDGE status, would not result in the company having a direct competitive advantage over other businesses already established in the Province. Since 2002, EDGE-designated companies are eligible to receive a 50% rebate on federal corporate income tax (double EDGE), a 100% rebate on provincial corporate income tax, and a 100% payroll tax rebate. The tax "holiday" for eligible companies is 10 years on the Northeast Avalon, as defined in the EDGE Act, and 15 years outside the Northeast Avalon, followed by a 5 year phase-out. In addition, 41 municipalities currently partake in the EDGE program by providing exemptions from business and/or property tax.

- A corporation that has been designated as an EDGE corporation qualifies for a reimbursement by the Province of 50% of tax payable by the corporation to the Crown in right of Canada under the Income Tax Act (Canada). This reimbursement equates to a grant from the Provincial government which is delivered through the departmental budget of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (BTCRD).
For EDGE clients it is difficult to budget the amounts that will be due to them as these companies are often unprofitable for a number of years and then become profitable and eligible for benefits. This means that there may be a number of years where nothing is paid out, and then the profits and resulting incentives can be significant. This results in an under budgeting of funds that are required, and the resulting shortfall has to be addressed in year end.

Contact Centres

- Since 2001, the Province has attracted contact centres to the province by offering economic incentives in the form of wage subsidies for full time employees. Subsidies are provided at a rate of 8% of gross payroll costs for centers located within the Northeast Avalon, and up to 12% for centers located outside the Northeast Avalon.

- Since the inception of the contact centre wage subsidy agreement, the Province has assisted seven companies and established 13 contact centres in the province, resulting in subsidies which have exceeded $30 million.

- Eleven of the 13 contact centre agreements have now expired.

Current Status:

EDGE

- There are currently 15 double EDGE companies. To date, only two have made a claim for the federal tax rebate (which impacts BTCRD’s budget); Viking Fur Inc. and Botwood Fur Ranch Inc. Additional companies are expected to make claims in the coming years.
Contact Centres

- Currently, only two of the 13 contact centre agreements are active. Only one claim was paid this fiscal year. It was for Tacamor, Bay Roberts. This was the final payment for Tacamor since it recently closed.

- The only other remaining contract in existence is Fusion BPO Grand Falls Windsor (GFW) centre and that contract expires in March, 2015.

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Recommendation:

Prepared by: Wendy Squires
Approved by: Liane Price

Date: November 06, 2014
Information Note
Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development

Title: Economic Development & Growth Enterprises Compliance

Issue:
- Whether compliance reporting requirements should be reduced for EDGE companies that are not in a profitable position, and therefore not availing of EDGE benefits.

Background and Current Status:
- EDGE approved companies are required to sign an EDGE contract with the Province which outlines the company's commitment with respect to the implementation of its business plan and the Province's commitment with respect to EDGE benefits.

- Section 6 of the EDGE contract states that a Company shall report annually, not later than 90 days after its fiscal year end, to the Minister on progress made in implementing its Business Plan. This report shall be accompanied by a report prepared by an external auditor to the company to the effect that, in the opinion of the auditor, the Company is complying with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and the Act.

- It is not uncommon for companies in their first year(s) of business to be in a net loss position i.e. unprofitable. Generally, discussions with these companies have indicated that the compliance requirements relating to reports prepared by external auditors are onerous in situations where the company is in a net loss position.

- Recently, two unprofitable EDGE companies have notified IBRD officials that, as a result of undue financial hardship of hiring an external auditor to prepare and sign off on the annual EDGE Reports, they are non-compliant with section 6 of the EDGE contract.

- Subject to Cabinet approval, EDGE status may be revoked at any time if the EDGE contract is not followed or if the proponent fails to commence operations.

Action Being Taken:
- Proposal to EDGE Board recommending Board concurrence with change to the EDGE legislation to accommodate those EDGE clients who are not in a profitable position and for which the requirement to provide audited financial statements would cause undue financial hardship.

- It is recommended that unaudited financial statements be accepted for EDGE clients who are in a net loss position.

Prepared by: Sam Stack
Approved by: Liane Price
Information Note
Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development

Title: Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises (EDGE) Program.

Issue: To provide background information on the EDGE Program and recommend enhancements to the program.

Background:
- The EDGE Program is a performance-based program designed as an economic development and marketing tool to encourage new business investment in the province to help diversify the economy and stimulate private sector job creation. The EDGE Program is governed by the Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises Act (the “EDGE Act”).

- The EDGE Program is available to local companies that want to expand, local entrepreneurs who are interested in new business start-ups, national and international companies and investors who wish to establish a new enterprise in the province.

- Businesses seeking EDGE status apply through the Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development (IBRD). The department evaluates EDGE applications, assesses the proposal in particular with respect to the EDGE criteria, prepares a presentation for the consideration of the EDGE Board, the necessary Cabinet submissions and carries out follow-up monitoring of companies granted EDGE status.

- The Department of Finance conducts an economic analysis of the company’s business plan (i.e. proposals) from the perspective of net economic benefit to the provincial economy and treasury. The EDGE Program is a performance-based incentive program – a company must invest its own capital and/or raise the required financing, perform successfully by earning profits, and create new jobs before it receives financial incentives under the EDGE Act. Currently, no funding is provided to the company up-front.

- To be considered for EDGE status, a company must demonstrate that it is new or expanding business activity:
  (i) has the potential for new capital investment of at least $300,000 or incremental sales of at least $500,000;
  (ii) has the potential to create and to maintain at least ten new permanent jobs in the province;
  (iii) would not take place in the province in the absence of the EDGE incentives, in preference to another location at the time when it is proposed to do so;
  (iv) has a substantial net economic benefit to the province; and,
  (v) if provided EDGE status, would not result in the company having a direct competitive advantage over other businesses already established in the province.

- EDGE-designated companies since 2002 are eligible to receive a 50% rebate on federal corporate income tax, a 100% rebate on provincial corporate income tax, and a 100% payroll
tax rebate. The tax “holiday” for eligible companies is 10 years on the Northeast Avalon, as defined in the *EDGE Act*, and 15 years outside the Northeast Avalon, followed by a five year even phase-out. In addition, 44 municipalities currently participate in the EDGE program (exemptions from business and/or property tax).

- Since 2002, in order for EDGE-designated companies to receive the EDGE incentives, an EDGE company must reach and maintain the eligibility criteria and thresholds specified in the *EDGE Act* unless extenuating temporary circumstances exist for which Cabinet may give a temporary reprieve and continue the benefits.

- Pursuant to the *EDGE Act*, an EDGE Board, comprising private and public sector members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, evaluates applications submitted under the EDGE Program. The Board makes recommendations on these applications to Cabinet through the Minister of Innovation, Business and Rural Development. The Board does not have the power to make decisions with respect to applications under the EDGE Program.

- In the 2010-11 fiscal year, IBRD issued a request for proposals for consultant services to evaluate the EDGE Program and to make recommendations with respect to the program. A Steering Committee was established with representatives from the department of the former INTRD, the former Department of Business and the Department of Finance, as well as officials from the Provincial Government Programs Office.

- The report from the consultant (Grant Thornton) has been received; IBRD has reviewed the recommendations and presented them to the Steering Committee for discussion and consideration.

**Current Status:**
- The Business Analysis division has reviewed the recommendations made by Grant Thornton and the responses provided by the Department and the EDGE Steering committee.

- As a part of this review, and in knowledge of the program from its role in administering EDGE, the Business Analysis division has developed the following recommendations for enhancements to make the program more attractive to potential applicants:
Prepared by:  Michael Day, Manager
Reviewed by:  Sharlene Jones, Director
Approved by:  Rita Malone, ADM
May 7th, 2013
PURPOSE
The Economic Diversification and Growth Enterprises (EDGE) Program provides incentives to encourage significant new business investment in the province to help diversify the economy and stimulate new private sector job creation, particularly in rural areas.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
A new business or an existing business interested in expanding in the province may apply for EDGE status if there is the potential to create and maintain 10 new permanent jobs in the province; it is prepared to make a minimum capital investment of $300,000 or generate incremental annual sales of $500,000; it would not establish or expand in the province in the absence of the EDGE incentives; the EDGE incentives will not give it a direct competitive advantage over other existing businesses in the province; and the new business activity will have a substantial net economic benefit to the province.

EDGE INCENTIVES
Companies approved for EDGE status are eligible for the following incentives and benefits:

- A 100 per cent rebate on provincial corporate income tax and the provincial health and post-secondary education (payroll) tax for a period of 10 years if the business is established within the northeast Avalon area, or for 15 years if it is established outside the northeast Avalon area.
- A 50 per cent rebate on federal corporate income tax for the periods referenced above.
- A further five-year period of partial rebates on the provincial and federal taxes referenced above, declining by 20 per cent in each year of this phase-out period.
- A 100 per cent rebate on municipal property and/or municipal business taxes for 10 or 15 years, followed by a five-year phase-out of such rebates, where individual municipalities elect to participate in the EDGE program.
- Access to unserviced Crown land for $1.00 where such land is required to implement the company’s business plan.

HOW TO APPLY
For program details and an application form, contact any office of the Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development or visit www.gov.nl.ca/ibrd. For assistance, call 1-800-563-2299 or the departmental office closest to you:

LABRADOR REGION
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